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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 5, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 31 totaled an estimated 18.3 billion ton-miles, 28.5 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 13 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 223.1 billion ton-miles, 13.8 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 31 were the highest since the week ended November 21, 1982, totalling 416,935 cars, 28.2 percent above 1983, and 3.1 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 37.9 percent in the East, 21.3 percent in the South and 26.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 19 of the 21 commodity groups were up. Loadings of metallic ores were up 6,412 cars (54.4 percent), motor vehicles and equipment increased by 6,598 cars (43.4 percent), coal loadings posted a gain of 35,313 cars (41.1 percent) and grain loadings were up 8,004 cars (39.2 percent). Sixteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 24 totaled 51,964 cars, up 18.8 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 91,234 trailers and/or containers, 22.3 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 12 weeks of the year was 588,591 cars, 17.3 percent higher than last year, and 1,031,830 trailers and/or containers, up 19.8 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/31/84:

	Loadings in Week ended March 31, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	28,422	I	8,004	39.2	I	1,157	4.0
Other farm products	3,447	I	414	13.6	I	18	0.5
Metallic ores	18,203	I	6,412	54.4	I	1,537	8.4
Coal	121,171	I	35,313	41.1	I	3,171	2.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	9,898	I	2,049	26.1	D	372	3.8
Nonmetallic minerals	12,703	I	3,461	37.4	I	315	2.5
Grain mill products	11,326	I	522	4.8	I	288	2.5
Food and kindred products	11,536	I	403	3.6	I	588	5.1
Primary forest products	13,996	D	527	3.6	D	403	2.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,599	I	1,609	23.0	I	551	6.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	15,948	I	420	2.7	I	1,032	6.5
Chemicals and allied products	26,836	I	4,119	18.1	I	889	3.3
Petroleum products	4,526	I	674	17.5	D	24	0.5
Stone, clay and glass products	11,125	I	1,751	18.7	I	51	0.5
Coke	5,369	I	1,110	26.1	D	308	5.7
Metals and products	11,330	I	2,214	24.3	I	503	4.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,795	I	6,598	43.4	I	587	2.7
Waste and scrap materials	10,902	I	3,560	48.5	I	383	3.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,509	D	1,162	13.4	D	128	1.7
All other carloads	61,993	I	14,616	30.9	I	2,800	4.5
LCL traffic	301	I	90	42.7	I	16	5.3
Total Cars Loaded	416,935	I	91,650	28.2	I	12,651	3.1
Corresponding week of 1983	325,285						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (13 weeks)	5,048,974	4,464,572	I 13.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
12 weeks ended March 24	204.8	181.9	I 12.6
Week ended March 31	18.3	14.2	I 28.5
13 weeks cumulative	223.1	196.1	I 13.8

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